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Sheffield TIMES

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA, SECOND GENERATION Vol. II, Issue 3 January/February 2003

Despite an unexpected snow storm, 60 people attended the first Master Plan public input and community visioning workshop at the Undermountain Elementary School on November 23rd.

SHEFFIELD TOWN PLANNING PROCESS UNDERWAY

"We want to preserve our rural character." "Let's identify ways to help our kids stay here." "The Housatonic River is a great asset that's underutilized." "The people participate." "We need to support our farms." We need affordable transportation for seniors" "It's not too late for Sheffield."

Those were some of the voices heard at the first community workshop for the Sheffield master plan. The workshop, held Nov. 23 at the Undermountain Elementary School Cafeteria, had a good turnout—some 60 people—despite an unseasonably early snow storm.

Sheffield's planning process has been underway for some months now. The ultimate goal is to construct a vision of where the people who live here want the town to be in 10 years. "The plan is a great tool for the town to chart where it wants to go," says Bob Weitz, Sheffield's Town Administrator and member of the Master Plan Steering Committee. "The best way to control how the town is shaped is to become involved now."

Dufresne-Henry, the planning, landscape architecture, and engineering firm hired by the town to manage the planning process, has done a lot of work in rural communities in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. From Cavendish, VT (population 1400), to Bridgewater, MA (population 25,000), their experience includes communities of all sizes. The team from Dufresne-Henry has been fact-gathering and creating maps of Sheffield that show land use, population, historic districts, aquifers, and other aspects of the town. The maps were on display at the community workshop and are available for viewing at the Town Administrator's Office in Town Hall.

Ted Brovitz, project manager for Dufresne-Henry, and his colleague Stephen Plunkard facilitated the workshop, with assistance from Kathy Orlando, Chair of the Master Plan Steering Committee. Information gathered at this and other workshops will be used to help the Committee gauge which issues and priorities are important to the community and focus the planning process.

More community workshops are planned, including one at Mt. Everett High School to get input from students who live in Sheffield. Also, a town-wide survey was sent out in late November. Less than 250 of the 1,800 surveys sent out have been returned, so the response deadline has been extended to January 17. If you have lost your original survey, contact the Town Hall to obtain a replacement. It is essential to hear from more people in order to have sufficient information from the community about what it needs and values to guide the rest of the planning process.

In addition, a computer-generated random sampling of 200 households is being used to verify that the general survey responses are representative of the whole community and that the results are statistically valid. So far, only a small fraction of those surveys have been returned as well. Following general survey protocol the random sample will be contacted by phone. Remember, even if your household does not receive a call it is crucial to return your survey.

The results of all the surveys will be tabulated, and a summary report is

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from the EDITORS

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT, SHEFFIELD!

Community response to our special fundraising appeal in September has been generous. With more than $5,000 raised, we are more than halfway to covering the cost of publishing the *Sheffield Times* for 2003. Local businesses continue to help defray expenses through their advertising (see p.11 for guidelines and contact information).

We are also need community involvement in other ways:

• Tell us what you're interested in reading about. Have a question about a Sheffield town service? Seen something in town you'd like to know more about? Let us know, and we'll try to cover it.

• Send us your news items. Have a fundraising drive or lecture you need to publicize?

• Send us artwork, photographs, or illustrations.

The Sheffield Times is happy to share appropriate news or events with the community (see p. 8 for details).

We are also looking for editors and people to help with distribution of the *Sheffield Times*.

You can reach us at the post-office box or e-mail address noted below.

Thanks again, and our best wishes for 2003!

—Kathy Orlando & Andrea Scott, Issue Editors

LETTER

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I'm still floating on a cloud. When I thought of turning 80 years old, I thought "what an awful age to be." Now it is a great "age" thanks to all the many friends and relatives who came to celebrate.

I have been told many times, "You're going to get your reward in Heaven." I would say, "Never mind Heaven. I'd like a little reward while I'm still on this earth." Well, you gave me that reward. Thanks to each and everyone for honoring me with your presence, cards, food, flowers, gifts and the donations.

A special thanks to the committee for all your hard work. And a special, special thanks to Pam, Barbara and Patrick.

–Inez Flinn

THANKS, SHEFFIELD POTTERY!

The Sheffield Association has asked the *Sheffield Times* to extend a special thank you to Sheffield Pottery for donating 200 tiles commemorating Sheffield in Celebration 2002 and offering the same for 2003. Proceeds from the sale of the tiles, which this year had a farming motif in keeping with the Celebration's theme, go to help cover costs of the event. The tiles proved a very popular item. One couple incorporated theirs into a tile wall in their kitchen. Tiles are still available for $5 from the Sheffield Association and at the Stone Store.

THANK YOU!

To everyone who has donated since the last issue to help keep the *Sheffield Times* going!
To anyone we missed, we'll get you into the next issue.

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Loet & Edith Velmans
Don & Claire Ward
Alice M. Warren
& two anonymous donations

Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA.

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Continued from page 1

expected to be completed by mid January. It will be presented at the next community workshop and will be available on a website currently under construction.

Sheffield facts

Brovitz started the November workshop with a review of some baseline statistics about Sheffield, including:

Population. According to the 2000 census, Sheffield has a population of 3,335. That's an increase of 14 percent from 1990. The median age is 41, up from 34 in 1980. Police Chief Jim McGarry, who attended the workshop, estimates that the population is more like 5,000 when seasonal and weekend residents are included.

Residences. More than 80 percent of the homes in Sheffield are single-family. About 250 new homes have been built since 1990. The median sales price of a single-family home in 2002 is $215,000, up 82 percent over the last 10 years. Some 210, or 13 percent of homes in town are seasonal or second homes.

Affordability of housing. About 28 percent of households pay more than 30 percent of their gross household income for housing. Only 2.1 percent of Sheffield's housing stock qualifies as "affordable housing" under State regulations.

Business and work. There are about 175 businesses in Sheffield, about one-third of them tourist-related—antiques stores, galleries, bed and breakfasts, restaurants. About 1,800 (68 percent) of the people in town are in the labor force, with retail trade the highest employment category (14 percent). The average commute is 22 minutes by car. With only 2 percent unemployment, Sheffield's unemployment rate is significantly lower than the state average of 3.7 percent.

Land use. Sheffield has just over 31,000 acres total, with 4,865 acres (16 percent) protected open space under public or private non-profit conservation ownership, with an additional 5 percent in restricted private land. Those are low percentages compared with the average for south Berkshire County, which is 23 percent in conservation ownership with an additional 3 percent restricted; and for the whole county, which is 30 percent with an additional 3 percent restricted. There are about 84 miles of local roads and 18 miles of state highways in town. Traffic on routes 7 and 41 has increased about 7 percent over the last 5 years.

Sheffield community values

Plunkard then asked those present to share their thoughts on Sheffield's values, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. His warm-up question was "If Sheffield were a car, what kind of car would it be?" The first, fast answer from the crowd was "pickup truck," followed by "Subaru." "Ah—practical and efficient," he summed up.

Most people at the meeting spoke during the wide-ranging discussion that followed. Threads that ran through the discussion included:

♦ The people of Sheffield are one of its best assets—"friendly," "willing to contribute," "fiercely independent" yet "resilient." Concerns include a lack of community identity, few opportunities for young people—and low involvement in community activities by people under 40—and a disconnect between year-round residents and second-home owners.

♦ Preserving the rural character of Sheffield—its beauty and peacefulness, its open vistas, clean water, and farms, its shady dirt roads and rich history—is a priority, made more difficult by rising land values and the pressure for development. The corridor along Route 7 was mentioned by several as being of concern, along with unguided development, the paving of dirt roads, and weak zoning. People mentioned various ways to strengthen the rural character of Sheffield, including building a trail system to connect town land and looking for industries that are compatible with a rural community. Sheffield could develop model ordinances that provide examples for other communities, one person said.

♦ Strengthening the economy of the town is another key priority. Ideas for this included developing the second homeowners as an "industry," establishing a regional industrial center, building on the existing tourism and farming bases, and developing businesses and attractions (like Barrington Stage) in coordination with surrounding communities.

♦ Housing is a growing issue. "Provide affordable housing that respects the rural character of the community" was a comment, echoed by many. Several people mentioned the importance of keeping new housing and other development in character with a New England village.

♦ Other infrastructure issues mentioned included the lack of public transportation — especially important to older residents, no town beach, and no high-speed Internet connections. The challenge presented by school costs were also mentioned.

A full report on the meeting will be available at Town Hall and will be posted on the planning website, which should be up and running in the next few weeks. *--Andrea Scott*

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE & FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING

♦ Return your *community survey* Less than 250 (only 12%) have been returned to-date, so the deadline has been extended to Jan 17. Your town needs to know what you think!

♦ Sign up for a *subcommittee.* See back page for details.

♦ Attend *Community Input Workshops.* See back page for details

♦ Contact *Ted Brovitz* from Dufresne-Henry. By phone at 617-426-9716 or email at tbrovitz@dufresne-henry.com. He will also have office hours at Town Hall in the Town Administrator's Office, tentatively dates: Jan. 8 or 10; 23; 27; Feb. 10 & 27. Call him or Town Hall (229-7000) to confirm dates and times.

♦ Contact a *Steering Committee.* member: Tammy Blackwell, John Downie, Wray Gunn, Jim McGarry, David Macy, Kathy Orlando (chair), Bob Weitz and David West. Contact information available from Town Hall or the phone book.

♦ Check the Master Plan *web site,* currently under construction and due to be up by the end of January.

♦ See the back cover for addtional contact information.

community NEWS

PLANS FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA MOVE FORWARD

The Upper Housatonic River Valley should be designated a National Heritage area, according to a two-year study just released by the National Park Service. Such a designation would heighten awareness of and appreciation for the cultural, historical, and scenic resources of the area.

Sheffield is at the heart of the Massachusetts and Connecticut towns that would be covered by the designation, which would run from Dalton and Pittsfield, Massachusetts in the North to Kent and Warren, Connecticut in the south.

Such a designation, says the report, could lead to better coordination of existing programs and resources, as well as enhancing the economic impact of area tourism. Three public meetings to discuss the findings will be held in January: 7pm Jan. 15 at the Salisbury (CT) Town Hall; 7pm Jan. 16 at the Stockbridge (MA) Town Hall; and 10am Jan. 18 at the Berkshire Atheneaum in Pittsfield (MA). Copies of the report can be found on the Internet at www.nps.gov/boso/upperhousatonic or by contacting the Upper Housatonic Valley Heritage Assoc. at P.O. Box 493, Salisbury, CT 06068.

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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Sheffield Food Program. Every Monday morning volunteers from our community gather at Old Parish Church to distribute food to individuals and families who, for a variety of reasons, just can't "do it all." Food is donated from area churches and businesses (Big Y, Price Chopper, etc.) and bought from donated funds. If you, or someone you know, is in need of food assistance, call the church office (229-8173) or stop in on Mondays from 9:30-10:30.

People's Pantry. Serves Thursdays, 11:30am-1pm at St. Peter's Church in Gt. Barrington.

Fuel Assistance Program. Contact Community Services at 528-1947 to find out if you qualify.

WIC Food Assistance. If you are pregnant, a nursing mother or have a child under five. Call 528-0754

LIBRARY NEWS

Looking for something to do with the kids this winter? Visit the Bushnell-Sage Library and check out some books! The library has a fine selection of titles for readers of all ages. Preschoolers can join story hour with Eileen Brennan at 10am on Thursdays; we already have some regular listeners!

Recent additions to the children's collection include the popular Bill Beet series, books by Mercer Mayer, the Tintin adventure stories, and quite a few Berenstein Bears early readers. When we enjoy beautiful books and stories with children, we stretch our imagination, learn new things together and pass along a love of reading. Besides, curling up with the Berenstein Bears is a pretty good way to spend a blustery afternoon.

The library is open during school vacations. We look forward to seeing you! — *Colleen Barrett*

Library hours: Tuesday & Friday 10am-8pm; Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday: 10am-5pm; closed Sunday & Monday.

Library Events

Become "raptorized" with "Raptor: A kid's guide to birds of prey," Sunday, Jan. 5, 1pm, at the Library. Enter the wild world of raptors with local authors Christyna and Rene Laubach and Charles W. G. Smith.

James Tapley, A One Man Show, runs through Jan. 17 during library hours, downstairs in the Garden Room. Enjoy the paintings of this local artist, who has traveled and painted throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. Tapley graduated from the Manlius School in Syracuse, earned a BA and MA at SUNY New Paltz and studied with Ilya Bolotowski, Gabriel Laderman, Robert Schuler, Ben Bishop and George Wexler, in addition to teaching art at Webatuck Central School for 33 years. Tapley has had a number of one-man shows and participated in many group shows, most recently at the Trinity Lime Rock show in August.

Photo Exhibits Highlight Sheffield

Photographs from the Sheffield Historical Society's archives interspersed with recent images highlight the spirit of Sheffield in two exhibits at the Old Stone Store. They are presented by the Historical Society, Sheffield Land Trust, Sheffield Tree Project and Elm Watch.

The photographs illustrate how the landscape of Sheffield has changed and, in places, remains the same. Trees have grown up or been lost, buildings have come and gone, yet much of Sheffield's rural character endures.

The historical photos hung by the Land Trust highlight in black and white how Sheffield -- its streets, landscape and fabulous elms -- looked 50 to 100 years ago. Black and whites taken by photography students at Mt. Everett High School and a smattering of color photos revisit some of the same areas to illustrate the character of today's landscape -- a landscape that each organization, in different ways, is working to conserve.

One of the big changes in the Sheffield landscape has been the loss of the magnificent elms and other heritage trees that used to line Main Street and so many of Sheffield's roads. Displays by the Tree Project and Elm Watch document the efforts of these two groups to ensure a legacy of healthy trees, inclu-ding recent plantings and inoculations of existing elms.

The exhibits run January 11-March 9, Saturdays 10am-2pm and Sundays 11am-3pm.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LOG *–John Ullrich, Chief*

10/25 – Alarm, 848 Cooper Hill Rd. Alarm time: 9:50 am; In service: 10:12am.
10/26- Medical-assistance call. Alarm time: 9:32am; In service: 9:57am.
10/26 – Dryer fire. Alarm time: 3:20pm; In service: 4:42pm.
11/2 – Alarm, 366 Kelsey Rd. Alarm time: 3:30pm; In service: 4:06pm.
11/4 – Alarm, 15 Main Street. Alarm time: 1:15pm; In service: 1:25pm.
11/5 – Alarm, Sheffield Plastics. Alarm time: 1:01pm; In service: 1:19pm.
11/5 – Alarm,194 Main Street. Alarm time: 5:47pm; In service: 5:58pm.
11/9 – Lost hiker. Alarm time: 6:10pm; In service: 8:40pm.
11/12 – Mutual aid, Great Barrington FD. Alarm time: 7:20 pm; In service: 8:55pm.
11/14 – Alarm, SBRSD. Alarm time: 8:10am; In service: 8:32pm.
11/16 – Four-wheeler accident. Alarm time: 1:40pm; In service: 2:03pm.
11/16 - Car/garage fire. Alarm time: 7:05pm; In service: 9:38pm.
11/18 – Alarm, Sheffield Plastics. Alarm time: 9:45am; In service: 9:58pm.
11/18 – Medical call. Alarm time: 11:12am; In service: 11:20am.
11/20 – Chimney fire. Alarm time: 5:50pm; In service: 6:37pm.
11/25 – Alarm, SBRSD. Alarm time: 4:22 pm; In service: 5:22pm.
11/29 – Alarm, 194 Main Street. Alarm time: 1:05pm; In service: 1:21pm.
12/6 – Chimney fire. Alarm time: 11:50am; In service: 12:25am.
12/9– Alarm, SBRSD Alarm time: 9:45am; In service: 10:05am.

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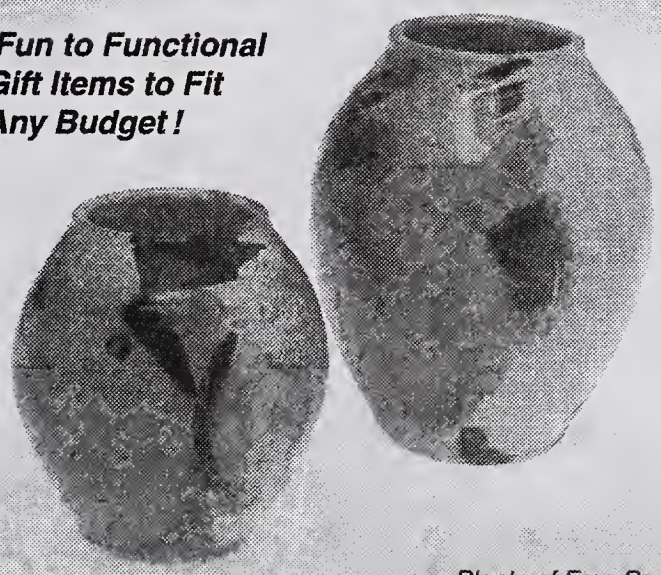

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CHURCH NEWS

Special presentation at Old Parish

As part of its regular Sunday service at 10am on Feb. 9, Old Parish Church, United Church of Christ, will offer a unique presentation by the Just Peace Players. This group of talented clergy and lay people will present a mini-drama titled "Is The Homosexual My Neighbor?" that explores, in poignant and often humorous ways, how people of faith often respond to the issues raised by gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered individuals and couples; what the Bible says, and doesn't say about this; and how those of us living in these times need to respond.

Because of the importance of the subject matter and the unique way in which it will be presented, the church is inviting the whole community to join us. There will be time after the service for questions and discussion.

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IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RETURN YOUR COMMUNITY SURVEY!
YOUR Town needs to know what YOU think!
Drop it by Town Hall, or mail it to Dufresne-Henry, P.O. Box 325, Sheffield, MA 01257. Your input is essential for the process to be be representative of the whole community.

Special Showing of Buster Keaton Favorite

On Jan. 30 at 2pm at Dewey Hall, the Sheffield Senior Center will show the 1928 silent film "Steamboat Bill," made by and starring the inimitable Buster Keaton. In this film the legendary Keaton performs the most daring stunt he ever undertook in any of his films.

Live music will be played by Donald Sosin, a Lakeville resident and one of the world's leading silent film composers and pianist. Sosin performs locally as well as at the American Museum of the Moving Image, the Brooklyn Academy of Music the Museum of Modern Art's Gramercy Theatre and Italy's internationally renowned silent film festival in Sacile.

Refreshments will be served. Reserve the date and please call the Senior Center at 229-7022 to sign up.

This event is made possible by the Sheffield Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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Churches & Services

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Grace Bible (non-denominational)
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Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)
1156 Ashley Falls Road (413) 229-2712. Sunday: 10am Service. Pastor Betty LeGeyt

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church (Episcopal)
180 Main Street (413) 229-8811 Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & childcare; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Susan H. Crampton

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses
Rte 7 & Kellogg Road (413) 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Faith Baptist
640 North Main Street (413) 229-0400 Sunday: 10am Sunday School; 11am Worship Service; 6pm Bible Study; Thursday: 7pm Prayer Meeting. Rev. H. Shelton Cole

Old Parish (United Church of Christ)
125 Main Street (413) 229-8173 Sunday: 10am Worship. Rev. Art Kaufman, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)
Maple Avenue (413) 229-3028
Saturday: 5:30pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)
1970 N. Main Street (413) 528-0233
www.sheffieldchapel.org Sunday: 8am & 10:45am Morning Worship services; 9:30am Sunday School for all ages; Pastor Chet Howes

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist)
North Street (413) 528-4197 Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
270 State Road (413) 528-6378 Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service; Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Asst. Rabbi Andrew Klein

Trinity Lutheran
St. James 352 Main Street (413) 528-1330. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday Worship. Rev. George E. Mayer

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire
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community NEWS

WELLNESS PROGRAMS AT FAIRVIEW HOSPITAL

A wellness, exercise and weight management program sponsored by Fairview Hospital begins Jan. 9 and will last 10 weeks. It will meet from 6:30 to 8:30pm at Studio 21 opposite the Kmart Plaza. Call 413-528-8600 ext. 3010 for more information. The program is $150 for 10 sessions. Additional Fairview programs include:

Parkinson's exercise group meets Mondays, 1-2pm at South Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Garage. Call 413-528-8600 ext. 3140. Referral required. $5 per session.

Cholesterol, blood pressure and glucose screenings Fridays, 9-noon at Searles Middle School, 6-9:30pm. Drop-in. Free.

Diabetes care program Mondays, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2-4pm in the hospital's ground-floor conference room. $5 per session.

Helping Hearts support group lecture Jan. 8, call for time and location. Sharyn Hickey, RN, will talk on the topic "Strategies for Sticking with Your Treatment Plan: Issues Surrounding Life-Style Changes."

Moms with More Tuesday, Jan. 6 and 21, 10:30-noon. At the hospital's Family Center. Call 413-528-1470 for more information.

Breast cancer inspirational group, Jan. 9, 5-6:30pm in the hospital's Medical Library.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE *SHEFFIELD TIMES* – YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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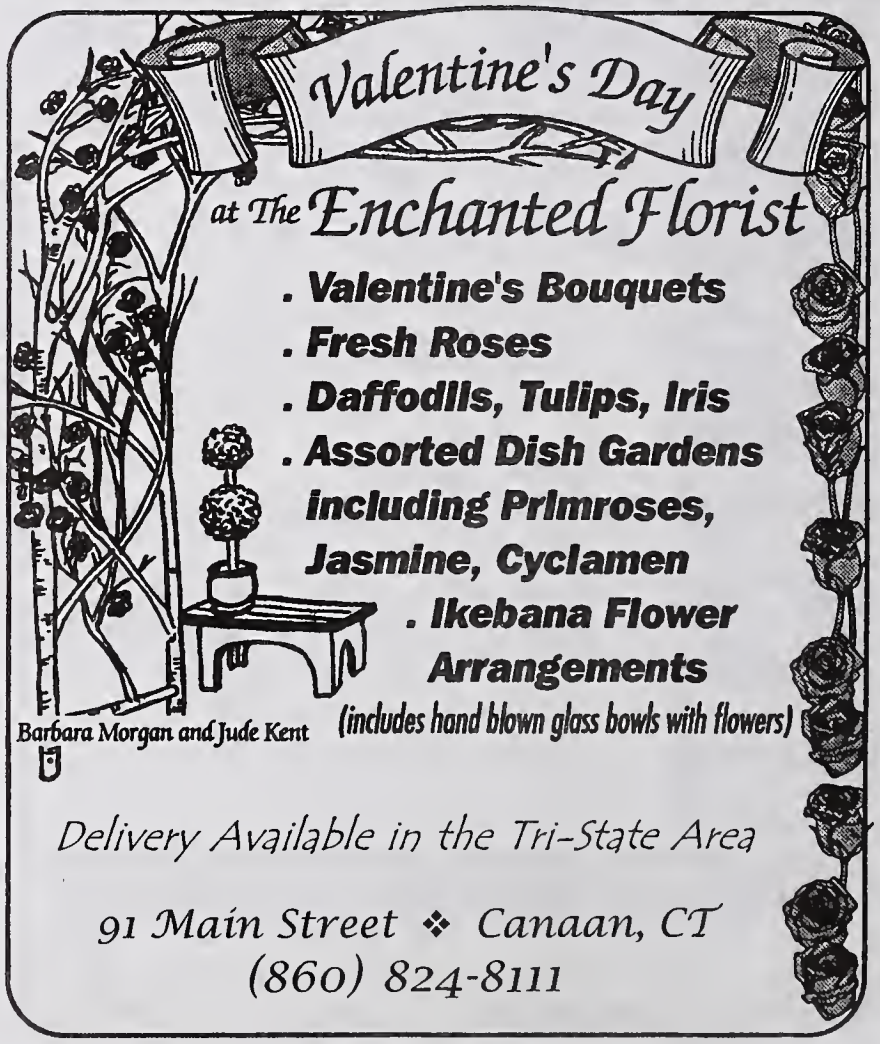

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE FAMILY NETWORK

All events are held at the Family Center, 940 South Main Street, Gt Barrington unless otherwise stated. Please register for all activities.. Call 528-0721 to register or for free newsletter. Please call if you can't attend so someone else can. In case of bad weather, call to learn if an event is cancelled. Activities are free to families with children birth-5 years, unless otherwise noted.

Regular Events

Playgroups, 9:30 – 11:30am. Each playgroup gives the adult and the child a chance to socialize with others their same age. The group is lightly structured: free play, nutritious snack, age appropriate activity, and circle time. A care giver must be with each child. *Sheffield Playgroups.* Tuesdays. Christ Church, lower level. Park in the back lot and enter through the back door. Thursdays. Grace Bible Church in Ashley Falls. Playgroups are also offered in 10 other S. Berkshire Towns. Call the Great Barrington Family Center, 528-0721 for information.

Kids Clubs. Quality drop off care two days a week for a reasonable fee. Short time child care for parents who have appointments or need to shop without children. 9am -12:00noon. *Y Kid's Club*, Tuesdays, at the Southern Berkshire YMCA, St. James Church, Gt Barrington. Call Marta at 528-9622 for information. *Sheffield Kid's Club*, Thursdays, Old Parish Church. Call Sally at 229-0392 for information. *IMPORTANT! Sheffield Kid's Club may stop if low attendance continues . Please try the service!*

Family Center Drop-in: use the play room, clothing exchange & lending library. Monday - Friday, 2pm -4pm ; *Additional times by appointment.*

English as a Second Language Classes, Thursdays, 1/ 23 –3/ 27 Child care provided. To register call Jana Laiz at 528-3674; for childcare call the Family Center at 528-0721. 4–5:30pm

Music Together. Mondays, starting 1/27. 8 week session. Children 8 mos-4 yrs. Limit of 12. Preference to families who have not already attended. St. James Church, Great Barrington. Call 528-0721 to register. 9:30–10:15am

Calendar

Mondays. *Playgroup*, Calvary Christian Church, Gt. Barrington; *Playgroup*, Family Center (12-24 mos)

Mondays & Fridays, *Parent-Infant Drop-In.* Families with children newborn -18 mos use the playroom and get to know each other. 12:30-2 pm

Tuesdays, *Moms with More than One Child group meeting.* Child care provided. Call Gail Puntin to register at 528-1470. 10:30–12 noon *Playgroup*, Christ Church, Sheffield *Kid's Club*, St. James Church, Gt. Barrington, 9am-noon *Story Time for 3 & 4 year olds.* alternate Tues.1/7, 1/21. Led by Joyce Weeks. Free-play 10:30am , story 11am *Cook Time for 3 & 4 year olds.* alternate Tues, 1/14, 28. Children make a snack, hear a story and play. 10:30am–12noon

Wednesdays. *Playgroup.* 18 mos-4yrs *Music Together*, birth through 7 yrs. Otis Town Hall Gym. Limit of 12. 10-10:45am *Parent-Child Swim*, Eden Hill Recreation Center. FREE. Birth-4 yrs. Call 298-1106 for information. 10:15-11:15am *New Marlborough Library Story time.* Call 229-6668 to register. 10-11:30am

Thursdays. *Playgroup*, Grace Bible Church, Ashley Falls; *Kid's Club*, Old Parish Church, Sheffield *Raising Your Spirited Child.* 1/16, 23, 30 Book discussion group. Child care provided. First 3 of 6 sessions. Limit of 6 adults. Call to register. 10:30–12noon

Fridays. *Playgroup*, Guthrie Center, Gt. Barrington.

Special Events

1/5 *Community afternoon* at Eden Hill Recreation Center. Free use of facilities. (413) 298-1106 for information. 3–5pm

1/10 *LaLeche League Toddler Group Meeting*, Contact Kim Kaufman at 528-2763. 11am-12noon

1/11 *Family Swim* , Berkshire South Community Center. $10 per family, limit of 30 people. Call to register at 528-0721. 11am–12noon

1/13 Linda Leck, Pediatric Nurse from Community Health Center will visit Parent-Infant Drop-in. 12:30-2pm

1/14 *Lasagna Dinner & Silent Auction*, for Children's Health Program. Barrington Brewery. Adults $5, Kids $3. 5–8pm

1/15 *Mother Baby Exercise and Baby Massage* led by Vicky Guy, LPTA. 1 p.m.

1/15 *Single Parents Playgroup.* Light dinner provided. – 7pm

1/16 *Reviving Ophelia/Raising Boys Discussion Group.* Bring books appropriate to your kids' ages: one that shows negative stereo- types & one that sets a good example. Child care provided. 3:30–5pm

1/18 *Toddler Playgroup.* 9:30–11:30am

1/22 *Latino Committee Meeting.* 6:30pm

1/25 *Father-Child Playgroup.* Mothers welcome. 10–12noon

1/27 *New Year's Lunch* for those with 2002 births. Child care provided.Berkshire South Community Center Conference Room. RSVP 528-0721. 12–2pm

1/27 *Stepfamilies Meeting.* 7pm

Additional Programs

Parent to Parent Volunteer Training. Volunteers give 1-2 hrs/wk assisting area families (emotional support, information and transportation). Call Claudette,528-0721 for information.

Parenting Journey. 12 week parent discussion group where adults review the way they were parented and relate it to how they parent. Child care can be provided. 10 participants are needed to make the experience meaningful. Call the Family Center to register or for information.

WIC Food Assistance. If you are pregnant, a nursing mother or have a child under five. Call 528-0754 for information.

Fun drives, not fund drives.

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Televised Board of Selectmen's meetings can also be seen Sundays at 11:30am on CTSB Cable Chanel 11. Not all meetings are televised.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

EXCERPTS FROM MEETING MINUTES

9/9—The meeting opened with a pole hearing, granting permission to Verizon New England and Massachusetts Electric to install a new utility pole on Cook Rd. In the only other item of business, a motion was adopted approving the sending of a letter to the head of the State Department of Environmental Management and others expressing concern over the proposed removal of the Mt. Everett fire tower.

9/23—Barrington Stage Company's request for two one-day liquor licenses for Oct. 12 and 19 was approved, subject to receipt of evidence of insurance. Selectman Dick Kirchner asked about the sign on the Green for the Farmers Market. Town Administrator Bob Weitz suggested that since the Board's original referral of the proposal for the sign to the Mass Highway Department and the Building Inspector could have implied its approval, the Board deferred the issue until 2003. The Board again agreed to send a letter of concern regarding the Mt. Everett fire tower, this time to several officials including the outgoing and incoming governors.

10/7—The Board decided to refer a letter from the American Red Cross, requesting that the Town Hall be designated an emergency shelter, to the Police Chief and the Emergency Management Coordinator. Michael Kirchner was appointed a Reserve Intermittent Police Officer. (Selectman Kirchner recused himself and left the room because he is related to the applicant.) Other appointments included Diane Farnham as a temporary transfer station attendant for six months, John Pollitt as a member of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Board and David Cartinelli as a temporary highway worker.

Race Brook Lodge requested and received permission for a one-day entertainment license for a live jazz performance on Oct. 12. Police Chief Jim McGarry recommended that Halloween trick or treat hours be 4:30 to 7pm on Oct. 31. A question was raised as to the interest, if any, in land owned by the Town as a result of tax taking. The Highway Department was complimented for its work on Shunpike Road.

10/8—The Board approved the hiring of Maxymillian Technology as the Environmental Consultant for the Highway Garage floor drain closure and site assessment (to replace Marin Environmental).

10/21—The Board signed the Warrant for the State Election at the request of the Town Clerk, gave permission for archery hunting on Town land by two individuals and approved two curb-cut permits. It also appointed Thomas Ackerman and Nick Ball as probationary members of the Fire Department and Allison Lassoe as the Town's representative on the Housatonic River Restoration Board, replacing Jenny Russell.

The Board heard a presentation of the Industrial Development Commission. Chair Janet Stanton congratulated Kirchner on being named Citizen of the Year by the Kiwanis Club.

10/28—Nancy Elliott's resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals was accepted with thanks for her service. The Board approved a list of additional poll workers for the Nov. 5 election.

11/4—A Tax Classification Hearing was held with the Board of Assessors present. The Board of Selectmen agreed to a single tax rate for fiscal year 2003. The Board appointed Daniel Moulton as the Planning Board Alternate, Peter Rowntree as a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate and Elizabeth Petersen, Laraine Novak and Michael Ovitt as additional poll workers. Also, a curb-cut permit request was granted.

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COLLECTORS & ASSESSORS OFFICE

From the Board of Assessors

Tax forms mailed! The following tax forms will be sent to all designated taxpayers by the Board of Assessors on or about January 1, 2003. They must be filed in the Assessors office by March 1, 2003, unless an extension is granted by the Assessors.

• FY2004 Form of List (State Tax Form 2). Return of Personal Property subject to Taxation under M.G.L. Chapter 59. Sec. 29-- to be filed by all individuals, partnerships, Associations or Trusts, Corporations and Limited Liability Companies subject to taxation in this town.

• FY 2004 Form of List (State Tax Form 2HF). Return of Personal Property subject to Taxation under M.G.L. Chapter 59. Sec. 29 -- to be filed by all individuals for household furniture and effects subject to taxation in this town.

• Farm Animal Excise, Machinery and Equipment (State Tax Form F.A.E.-M.E.) under M.G.L Chapter 59. Sec. 8 [A] – Application for excise on farms animals, machinery and equipment.

• FY2004 State Tax Form 3ABC. Return of Property held for Charitable Purposes under M.G.L. Chapter 59. Sec. 5. Cl. 3(b),5,5,5A & 5B and Chapter 59 Sec. 29.

Assessments. As mandated by the state Department of Revenue's Bureau of Local Assessment every three years, the Town of Sheffield will once again be recertifying property values. To complete the reassessment, the appraisal firm hired by the town will be visiting properties. Homeowners, please receive the appraiser with respect to insure fair assessment of all properties.

Reminder! The real estate and personal property tax bills you received in December are for your February 1 AND May 1 quarterly payments. You will NOT get another bill for the May payment. If you think your tax amount should be abated, please follow the instructions and deadlines on the back of your bill. The tax rate is $13.46 per $1,000.

ADVERTISERS WELCOME!

The *Sheffield Times* accepts advertising at its discretion:
- From Sheffield businesses & residents: want ads; items for sale; services offered (landscaping, carpentry, electrical, forestry, typing, babysitting, sewing, etc.); business ads, etc.
- From outside of Sheffield: services, etc., that benefit Sheffield residents.
- No editorial or political ads.

For more information or to place an ad, contact Rene Wood at 229-2875 or renecwood@aol.com.

March/April Issue Deadline: February 14th

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Tuesdays and Fridays: 1pm-4pm
Saturdays: 8am-4pm
Sundays: 8:30am-2pm

TOWN CLERK

2003 hunting and fishing licenses. These are now available at the Town Clerk's Office.

Town census reminder! 2003 annual town census forms will be mailed out the first week in January. You have 10 days to return your completed form to the Town Clerk's office. This is a state-mandated census. Failure to reply will result in your being removed from the voting list. If you have questions, contact the Town Clerk's office.

Landlords! Those who have not responded to the first and second requests from the Board of Registrars for tenants for the 2003 census, please respond immediately. Thank you to all landlords who have already responded.

Helen E. Johnston, Town Clerk
Maureen T. Snyder, Asst. Town Clerk
Hours: Monday-Friday 9-4, Tel: 229-8752, Fax: 229-7010

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Snow-Plowing Guidelines

Please plow snow from your driveway AWAY from the road and into your property.

Be sure to NOT plow snow from your driveway into or across the road where town plows will hit it. Those piles of snow from your driveway can freeze up and damage the Highway Department's plows!

Helpful plowing tips: (1) Plow snow to the left side of your driveway -- when viewed from the road -- so that when the Town plows come through they do not push it back into your driveway. (2) If you have rocks or other landscaping elements outlining your lawn or driveway, move them back from the road and edges of the driveway so snow plows won't hit them.

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Broker Associate

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Voice mail ext. 15

Wildlife Tracking: Workshop, Slideshow and Lecture

If you've ever wondered what made those tracks across your lawn, around the bird feeder or in the woods, come to the Sheffield Land Trust's Fourth Annual Winter Lecture on Saturday, Feb 15. Nationally renowned naturalist, expert tracker and wildlife authority Susan Morse will be leading a field workshop from 9am to 2pm and giving a slide show and lecture at Dewey Hall at 3pm.

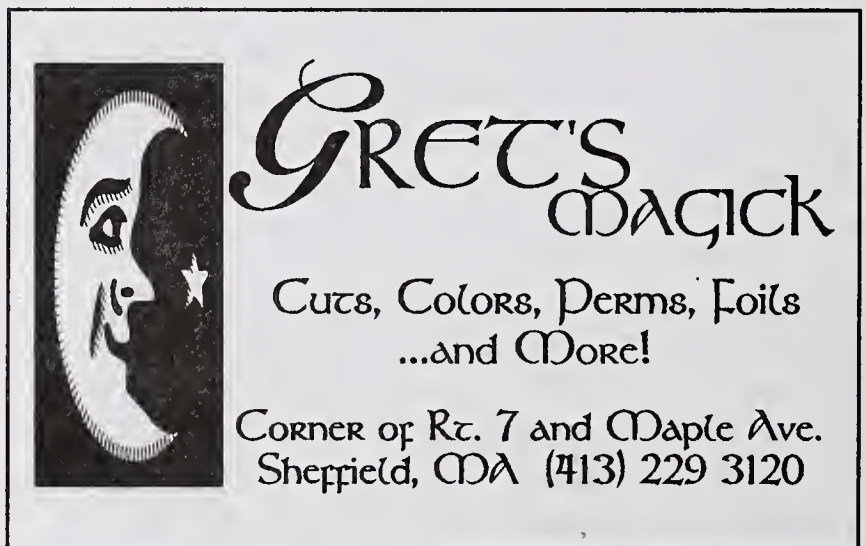
Workshop participants will learn techniques to identify and interpret the signs of our wild neighbors as well as information about their behavior and habitat requirements. Morse is a skilled teacher as well as a tracker and has honed her craft by training teams of amateur trackers as wildlife monitors in communities across the country. Pack a lunch, snacks and water, and dress appropriately for spending the day outside, including periods of standing while interpreting wildlife signs. The morning workshop is free, but limited to 20, so reserve your space early! Reservations can be made by calling the Land Trust office at 229-0234. Leave your name and phone number in case the land trust needs to be in touch with further information. Hikers will meet at Town Hall at 8:30am.

Morse's slideshow and lecture at 3pm are open to the public and don't require a reservation, but past years events have been standing-room only, so arrive early to secure a seat. The slide show will include images that Morse has compiled during 30 years of research and fieldwork studying northeastern and western wildlife, their habitat and ecology.

The workshop, slide show and lecture are free, but donations are welcomed. Tea and refreshments will be served following the slide show.

© 2002 by Susan C. Morse

Bobcat, like the one pictured here, is one of the species whose signs participants in the tracking workshop will be looking for. There have been recent sightings of these usually reclusive cats along Barnum St., Boardman St., LeGeyt Rd. and by Mill Pond along Bow Wow Rd.



SCOUT NEWS

The Sheffield Scouts wish to thank everyone who participated in our Scouting for Food drive in November. We collected over 600 items, which were donated to the food assistance program run from the Old Parish Church. THANK YOU ALL.

—George A. Oleen

KIWANIS NEWS

Raffle tickets for sale. Kiwanis members are currently selling raffle tickets to benefit the Kiwanis scholarship fund. The grand prize this year is a 2003 Ford Ranger four-door 4x4. Chances are $50 each and are available at Limey's Restaurant, PJ's Convenience Store, and Sears in Great Barrington. Next June we hope to give out over $20,000 to high school seniors at area schools and to some students continuing their college education. One of the scholarships will be a memorial honoring Rev. James Chase.

The raffle drawing will be at 8pm on Valentine's Day 2003 at Limey's Lounge. The first-prize alternative to the vehicle is $15,000. Second place receives $1,500 and third $500. Odds of winning are some of the best in the area since only 1,000 tickets have been printed and only 700 were sold for the last two Kiwanis raffles, with grand prizes of a VW Beatle and a PT Cruiser.

--Richard Goodwin

Sheffield Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at Limey's Restaurant. Dinner is at 6:30pm. The business meeting begins at 7:15pm.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS

What's It? Night with Milt Barnum & Chris Coenen. The ever-popular program is back. For years now, Barnum and Coenen have challenged a multi-generational audience to stump them with antique objects brought in from home. Take up the quest for historical understanding and join the members for this educational and always entertaining evening. The program, free and open to the public, will take place in the Fellowship Room of Old Parish Church, on the green in Sheffield. Refreshments will be served. Jan. 10, 7:30pm.

Songs Sung in Sheffield: A Family Sing-Along. This program, cosponsored with the Bushnell-Sage Library, celebrates American songs. There will be songs composed by a local musician and old favorites that everyone knows and loves to sing. Bring your voice and even an instrument if you like. The program, including readings and special performances, is free and open to the public at the Library. Jan. 20, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 1pm.

Mary Brown: Abolitionist, with Kathleen Thomas. Kathleen Thomas, a writer and performer from Lake Placid and Rhinebeck, N.Y., has performed this first-person dramatic monologue throughout New York and New England at theaters, colleges, libraries, and museums. Beginning with the courtship of John Brown and Mary Ann Day in 1833 and culminating in the aftermath of the ill-fated raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in 1860, it reveals the personal and public lives of John and Mary Brown from Mary's point of view. The play is a fascinating lesson in American history that raises difficult questions: Is it ever morally permissible, but sometimes politically necessary, to eradicate injustice through force? A question-and-answer period follows. At the Fellowship Room of Old Parish Church, Feb. 14, 7:30 pm.

School vacation workshop. "Hands-on Quilting," jointly sponsored by the Historical Society, the Bushnell-Sage Library and the Berkshire Quilters' Guild, lets 8- to 12-year-olds create their own unique piece of textile history to take home. Fee. Registration required. February 19, 10am to 3pm. Bring a bag lunch.

For more information on Society programs, contact the Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main Street, P.O. Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, (413) 229-2694, or email us at shs@sheffieldhistory.org.

Tours of the Dan Raymond House are available by appointment year-round. The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Monday and Friday, 1:30-4pm and by appointment.

Real-estate transfers

October

1 Wayne B. Sr. & Carol Ovitt to Bruce & Rachel Rogol, property at 295 & 297 Clayton Rd, $212,000.

1 Justice & Ginger Carey to Jeffrey Martin & Laura C. Gross, property at 850 Foley Rd, $232,500.

4 Deborah M. Hewins to Timothy P. Hewins, property at 426 Hulett Hill Rd, Transfer.

7 Richard M. & Maureen T. Coon to Richard M. Coon, property at 300 Boardman St, Transfer.

11 Robert Lotz to Robert & Jessica J. Lotz, property at 52 Huldah's Ln, Transfer.

11 Martha Brewer Yost to Lawrence C. Jr. & Kim M. Casey, property at Whippoorwill Ln, $8,000.

11 Martha Brewer Yost to Lawrence C. Jr. & Kim M. Casey, property at Whippoorwill Ln, $30,000.

15 Angeline M. Baldauf to Anne Y. Marchak, property at 40 Kellogg Rd, $189,000.

15 John A. & Theresa F. Anello to Theresa F. Anello, property at 316 Miller Ave, Transfer.

17 Roy D. Wilkinson to Century Acquisitions, Inc, property at Clayton Rd, $75,000.

22 Marian Lukas to Jeffrey A. & Louise P. Davis, property at 680 Clayton Rd, $206,000.

22 Justice & Ginger Carey to Julie E. Berriault & John Anthony Sheldon, property at Foley & Kelsey Rds, $125,000.

23 Chester & Joy A. Douglass to Brian & Louis Levinsohn, property at 27 Main St, $385,000.

29 Colleen A. O'Connor to Thomas E. & Elizabeth R. Whaley, property at 430 Clayton Rd, $103,000.

29 Nancy G. Elliott to Andrea Patel, property at 30 Cross Rd, $360,000.

30 Lynn Anti Gidarakos to Wade A. & Deborah U. Bernstein, property at 25 Bunce Rd, $165,000.

November

1 August Jr. & Evelyn M. Graf to Kathleen M. Chrisman, Trustee of Pine Farm Nominee Trust, property at Barnum St, $460,000.

1 Arlene F. Reid to Justice & Ginger Carey, property at S. Undermountain Rd, $65,000.

5 Dale G. Carlson to Dale G. & Judith L. Carlson, property at 751 Salisbury Rd, Transfer.

6 Norma L. Moulton to Michael & Marion Wind Pisick, property at 105 Bears Den Rd, $350,000.

11 Wallace C. Jr & Lorraine I Hitchcock to Kevin T. Moran & John M. Trierweiler, property at 1435 County Rd, $45,000.

15 The Nature Conservancy to Dragos & Katheryn Tundrea, property at 334 S. Undermountain Rd, $225,000.

18 Patricia A. Marshall, Joseph Michael Novicki & Jeremy Michael Blair to Eugene F. & Norma R. Novicki, Transfer.

21 Richard A. & Nancy Bunce to Matthew L. Farmer, property at Bunce Rd, $100,000.

22 Stephen John Shmulsky to James & Theresa Fife, property at Shunpike Rd, $35,000.

26 Melissa M. Cokefair to Rodney Ripps & Nancy Finton, property at 119 Ashley Falls Rd, $85,000.

27 Franck E. Felix to Michelle A Demellier, property at Rannapo Rd, $37,000.

29 Barbara Lamanno to Suzann Laverack, property at 970 West Rd, $160,000.

29 Dennis & Joan D. Sawyer to Emma Paladino, property at 164 Ashley Falls Rd, $360,000.

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(W) 413-528-2713
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calendar PAGE

Page number is given after an event if written up in this issue.

January
5 "Raptor: A Kid's Guide to Birds of Prey", Library, 1pm, (p4)
10 "What's It?" night, Old Parish Church, 7:30pm, (p13)
11, 18, 25 Photo Exhibit, Stone Store, 10am-2pm, (p5)
12, 19, 26 Photo Exhibit, Stone Store, 11am-3pm, (p5)
15 Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area public meeting, Salisbury, CT Town Hall, 7pm (p4)
15 Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday
16 Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area public meeting, Stockbridge Town Hall, 7pm (p4)
18 Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area public meeting, Pittsfield Berkshire Atheneaum, 10am (p4)
20 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OBSERVED
20 "Songs Sung in Sheffield" sing-a-long, Library, 1pm
23 2nd Master Plan Community Workshop, Town Hall, 6:30pm (p1, 3 & back page)
30 Buster Keaton's "Steamboat Bill," Dewey Hall, 2pm (p6)

February
1, 8, 15, 22 Photo Exhibit, Stone Store, 10am-2pm, (p5)
2, 9, 16, 23 Photo Exhibit, Stone Store, 11am-3pm, (p5)
9 Just Peace Players, "Is the Homosexual My Neighbor?", Old Parish Church, 10am (p6)
14 VALENTINES DAY
14 SHEFFIELD TIMES DEADLINE
14 "Mary Brown: Abolitionist", Old Parish Church, 7:30pm, (p13)
15 Wildlife tracking workshop, 9am, (p12)
15 Wildlife tracking slideshow, lecture & tea, Dewey Hall, 3pm (p12)
17 PRESIDENTS' DAY
19 "Hands-on Quilting" children's workshop, Library, 10am-3pm, (p13)

March
1 TAX FORMS DUE, Assessors Office, Town Hall (p.11)

SEE ALSO:
Churches & Services, p.7 ◆ S. Berkshire Family Network, p.9 ◆ Fairview Hospital Wellness Programs p.8

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS
(meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by reference – i.e. 1st, 3rd indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates that an appointment is needed.)

Mondays:
Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am (p.10)
Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd, 4th
Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd

Tuesdays:
Kid's Club, Old Parish Church, 9am-12pm
Council on Aging, Dewey Hall, 9am, 3rd
Physical Fitness Class, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9:00am
Building Inspector, Town Hall, 6pm – 8:30pm
Sheffield Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant; Dinner 6:30pm; Business Meeting, 7:15pm
Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd
Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last

Thursdays:
Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7am – 1pm
*Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd (no clinic in November)
Physical Fitness Class, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9:00am
Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th

Saturdays:
Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4th

Senior Center Calendar

See also regular listings above

January
6: Footcare Clinic, 9am
9: Hearing Clinic, 1pm
20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Center Closed.
30: Movie: *Steamboat Bill*, 2pm, call for reservations, details on p6

February
17: President's Day, Center closed.
27: Pot Luck Lunch, 12 noon, Fran Kelsey's Senior Tap Dancers will perform.

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES!

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❑ I am particularly interested in or have experience with _____

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PLEASE RETURN YOUR MASTER PLAN SURVEYS!

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

NOW JANUARY 17TH!

Each Sheffield household was mailed a community survey. In order for the survey to be a valuable tool for the Master Plan, we need to collect as many as possible. EVERY SURVEY MATTERS!

The purpose of the survey is to determine the community's priorities and values regarding land use and development, town services, the local economy, natural resources, recreation, housing, traffic and transportation, and future concerns. That information will then be used to direct the Sheffield Master Plan.

Your opinions are important! Your response will be kept in strict confidence and grouped with all other responses.

Mail to: Dufresne-Henry, c/o Town of Sheffield, P.O. Box 325, Sheffield, MA 01257
Fax to: (617) 338-1687 ◆ Drop off at:Town Clerk's Office

Phone: 229-7000 or (617) 426-9716 ◆ e-mail: tbrovitz@dufresne-henry.com

THANK YOU!

OTHER WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MASTER PLAN

Join a Subcommittee

Four have been established and will likely start meeting in February:

- Economic development
- Facilities/services/transportation
- Housing
- Open space/recreation/land use

Attend Community Input Workshops

The next workshop is tentatively scheduled
Monday, January 27
6:30-8:30pm
Town Hall

Look for notices in the papers and around town for the final date, time and details.

To sign-up for a committee or to ask questions, phone, mail, fax or e-mail as noted above.

Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA
P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257
sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com